Dewan's Reply to the Addresses presented to him at the Opening of the Representative Assembly. Dated 2nd October 1922.

GENTLEMEN,

I thank you one and all from the bottom of my heart for your very kind and generous references to me personally and specially for the very appreciative manner in which you have referred to my elevation to the high office of the Dewan of Mysore. It will be my earnest endeavour during my term of office to fulfil at least in part the high expectations you entertain of my labours.

I will now deal with the addresses in the order in which they have been presented, and intend to reply in general terms to the several matters that you have referred to.

The needs and interests of the Kolar Gold Fields have always received and will continue to receive the sympathetic and careful consideration of His Highness' Government. As regards the two special subjects brought out in the address of the Mining Board, I may state that since the electrification of the pumping plant of Bethmangala the pressure on the main is now said to be steady and there are fewer accidents. I also understand that the Water-Supply Department is taking up the question of the renewal of the pipe-line and I have no doubt that when this is done, the defects pointed out will be removed. I shall have the question of the removal of Kadahalli village examined once more.

The Government have not sanctioned the reduction recommended by the Special Finance Committee in the strength of the Police Force on the Fields. On the other hand, the Inspector-General of Police has been requested to investigate the requirements of this area carefully and submit a report. Government do recognize the special need of the area for adequate Police arrangements.

The subjects referred to in the address of the Mysore Chamber of Commerce will receive due consideration. This body represents an important interest in the State, which His Highness' Government would like to see further developed. I have already stated in my address to this Assembly to-day that we are taking steps to augment the railway rolling stock. The installation of public telephone systems in Bangalore and Mysore was once under consideration, but

was deferred owing to the increased cost of materials. The schemes will again be investigated. As regards the allotment to the Chamber of a seat in the Legislative Council, it is the intention of Government to make provision for the representation of commercial and other special interests as well as of minorities in the constitutional assemblies of the State.

Representatives of the Malnad, Government are fully aware of your needs and sympathise with you in your special difficulties. Three years ago when I officiated as Dewan, I travelled through the whole of the Hassan and Kadur Districts and studied some of your important problems first-hand. Substantial progress has, as you will admit, been achieved since, in the direction of improvement of certain ghat roads, increasing medical facilities and removing certain forest grievances. Unfortunately, financial stringency supervened and placed severe limitations on the capacity of the Government to make increased grants for Malnad improvement. I have planned a second tour in your beautiful districts during the ensuing cold weather and I shall then go into all the questions you refer to on the spot. You may rest assured that His Highness' Government will do all in their power, consistently with the other demands, to ameliorate the conditions of the Malnad.

I regret I cannot hold out any prospects to the South Mysore Planters' Association that the Hassan-Mangalore Railway Project will be taken up early. Our present position in respect of the railway programme has been fully dealt with by me in my opening address and no capital outlay on new lines can be contemplated from State funds for some years to come. The question as suggested by me may be investigated by the District Board.

The other addresses referrred to the special needs of particular communities. The Vokkaligara Sangha and the Lingayet Education Fund Association and the Jain Association lay special stress on the question of educational reforms and the representation of the members of the communities in the public service. As regards educational reforms, I have told you in my Address that an additional grant is going to be made this year to introduce them in part and make a beginning in the work of re-modelling the lower grades of education. I have already referred in my Address to the extraordinary conditions which have retarded the consummation of the policy laid down by Government in regard to the representation of members of backward communities in the Government service. I am

personally sorry that there has been some room for disappointment in this respect and as I have stated already in the Address, early steps will be taken to review the position and issue definite instructions to see that the policy of His Highness' Government is closely followed and that no departure therefrom is permitted. As regards the effect of retrenchments on the backward communities I wish also to assure you that the position will be carefully examined.

The addresses from the Mahamadan representatives contain as usual a catalogue of their special educational needs. These, like the address of the Lingayet Education Fund Association, press for early action in pursuance of the Education Memorandum orders. The requirements under Mahamadan education as well as under all other grades of education are being carefully investigated, and concentrated efforts will be made to improve Mahamadan education and remove defects in respect thereof. I am ready to accept the suggestion to call a conference to go into the whole question of Mahamadan education.

The representative of the Indian Christian Association has again raised the question of legislation to remove certain civil disabilities arising from change of religion. This is essentially a socio-religious question in which Government is bound to observe strict neutrality. They will, however, have no objection to this subject being brought up in this Assembly and the Legislative Council with a view to ascertain the present state of public feeling in the matter. The question of allotting backward class scholarships is one that was investigated by me during my inspection of schools and I shall note your views on the subject which appear to me to deserve consideration.

I should like to assure you the representative of the Audi-Dravida Community that it is under contemplation to take early steps to appoint the special agency which Government promised for your advancement and I can assure you that your interests will always receive consideration at my hands. Orders have issued also directing that qualified candidates from the depressed classes should get first preference in respect of appointments. The claims of suitable candidates of this community for appointment to graded ranks will always receive the sympathetic consideration of Government.

The Mysore Arya Vaisya Mahasabha need have no alarm or anxiety that the interests of their community will be forgotten. Government will take special care to see that the interests of minorities are duly protected.

The address of the Kurubara Sangha refers to special encouragement to the sheep-rearing industry and the manufacture of blankets. This is a matter of great importance to the Kurubar Community, and I understand that it is receiving the attention of the Department of Industries and Commerce. Government will be glad to afford any special facilities that may be necessary for further development in these directions.

The Anjumani-Islam Mahadevia has brought to notice certain disabilities and several other matters of a more or less local character. I can only repeat in respect of their representations, that if a Mahamadan conference is convened, the questions raised by them, will be referred to that conference for consideration.

Gentlemen, you will readily understand that it is impossible for me on this occasion to touch on all the points referred to in your addresses. Some of them will no doubt come up before this House during the discussion of subjects and many of them are already covered by the observations that I have made in my opening address, but I wish to assure you that they will all be carefully noted for investigation and orders of Government in due course.

In conclusion, I shall convey with much pleasure to His Highness the Yuvaraja your felicitations on the birth of a Princess. It will also give me great pleasure to submit to His Highness the Maharaja the deep feelings of loyalty and devotion which you have expressed in your addresses.